## **SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following on top of the first page of the specification:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A MULTIPLAYER GAMING ENVIRONMENT

## Please replace the paragraph on page 7 on lines 8-19 with the following paragraph:

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, if the user's invitation is not accepted at block 305 of Figure 3, the user may be nitified notified if a game is already in progress at block 345. This determination may be done automatically in response to the user broadcasting a gaming invitation at block 300, or it may be done in response to a specific query initiated by the user. If it is determined at block 345 that no game is in progress (and no invitations to game are accepted at block 305), the user may wait and broadcast another gaming invitation at block 300. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, broadcasting the gaming invitation may be done automatically on a regular basis (e.g. every minute) at the behest of the user for a predetermined period of time or until the user deactivates this feature. Alternatively, broadcasting the gaming invitation may be done only once in response to a single user request.